

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/237,828

Examiner

Quoc A. Tran

Applicant(s)

HENDRICKS ET AL.

Art Unit

2176

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's Reponse After Final filed 02/04/2008 and Phone interview on 02/15/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 20-25, 102, 30-44, 48-55, and 80-90 (Renumbering as 1-42 respectively).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date See Continuation Sheet
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 02/15/08.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

/Doug Hutton/
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2100

Continuation Sheet (PTOL-37)

Application No. 09/237,828

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date:
2/7/08; 1/17/08; 10/11/07, 9/28/06, 8/1/07.

DETAILED ACTION

In response to Applicant's Response After Final Office Action filed 02/04/2008, and telephone interview on 02/15/2008, the examiner's amendment was authorized by attorney of record Sheree T. Rowe Attorney for Applicants, Registration No. 59,068 Customer No. 004372 1050 at ARENT FOX LLP 1050 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 400 WASHINGTON, DC 20036 Telephone No. (202) 715-8492. Claims 1 and 86 are currently amended. Claims 2-19, 26-29, 45-47, and 56-79, 91-101, and 103-112 are canceled. Claims 20-25, 30, 32-36, 39, 42-43, 48-54, 80-90, and 102 were previously presented. Claims 31, 37-38, 40-41, 44, and 55 were original.

Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

The application has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic book system tangibly embodied on a computer-readable medium, comprising:

an electronic book; and

a menu system, the menu system including:

a help menu, wherein the help menu provides instructions for using the menu system; and

a show links menu, wherein when selected, the show links menu displays a link type menu that includes audio clip links, graphics file links, definition links, language translation links, book order links, book review links, related discussion group links, pronunciation links, data base links, other book links, and book selection links.

2-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein each component of actual text on a page of the electronic book may have one or more links to additional components.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein a desired link type is selected by highlighting the desired link type from the link type menu with a cursor and operating a select button, and wherein when the desired link type is selected, all links of the selected type that exist on a displayed page of the electronic book are highlighted.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the links of the selected type are highlighted in a color that is different from other colors the displayed page of the electronic book.

Art Unit: 2176

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the links of the selected link type are displayed in a font that is different from other fonts on the displayed page of the electronic book.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the links of the selected link type are highlighted by displaying the links in one of a bold typeface, an italics typeface, and an underlined typeface.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 21, wherein a desired link is activated by selecting a desired highlighted link from the displayed page of the electronic book using the cursor and operating the select button.

26-29. (Canceled)

30. (Previously Presented) A method for linking electronic files to electronic books, comprising:

identifying a selectable text element that is a section of actual text in a first electronic book;

associating an electronic file with the selectable text element, wherein the associating step creates an electronic link;

repeating the identifying and associating steps, thereby creating multiple electronic links, each electronic link having a corresponding selectable text element and a corresponding electronic file; and

providing a links menu, wherein the links menu is capable of displaying all of the available corresponding electronic links associated with a selected one of the selectable text elements in the first electronic book,

wherein the links menu displays all of the available corresponding electronic link types for a displayed page in the first electronic book, and, when a desired electronic link type is selected from the links menu, only the available corresponding electronic links of the selected link type are displayed on the page.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the electronic books are stored in an electronic book unit.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the electronic book unit comprises:

- a memory that stores the electronic books and associated electronic files;
- a display that displays the electronic books and the electronic files;
- a control unit adapted to receive commands from a user; and
- a controller that controls operation of the electronic book unit and activation of the electronic links.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein one of the selectable text elements is a location in an index of the first electronic book, wherein activation of the corresponding electronic link displays a page of the first electronic book associated with the location in the index.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein one of the selectable text elements is a location in a table of contents of the first electronic book, and wherein activation of the corresponding electronic link displays a page of the first electronic book associated with the location in the table of contents.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein one of the selectable text elements is one of a word and a phrase in the first electronic book, and wherein the corresponding electronic file is a location in a dictionary that defines the word or phrase.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the electronic book unit includes an audio module, wherein when the corresponding electronic link is activated, the audio module provides an audio presentation giving a pronunciation of the word or phrase.

37. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the dictionary is a foreign language dictionary, and wherein the electronic file is displayed in a foreign language.

Art Unit: 2176

38. (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the electronic book unit activates a selected foreign language selection feature, and wherein the electronic book unit activates a selected foreign language dictionary based on an input from the foreign language selection feature.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the electronic book unit is connected to a telecommunications network, and wherein the corresponding electronic file is stored in a database in the telecommunications network.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the telecommunications network includes one of a telephone system, a cable television system, a wireless telephone system, a digital satellite television system, a fiber optic system, an Ethernet, and a wireless television system.

41. (Original) The method of claim 39, wherein the database is a part of an Internet web site.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39, wherein activating the corresponding electronic link provides access to the Internet web site.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the corresponding electronic file is a location in a second electronic book.

44. (Original) The method of claim 43, wherein the first and the second electronic books are stored in an electronic book unit.

45-47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein, upon selection of one of the selectable text elements, the corresponding electronic file is displayed overlaying a page of the first electronic book having the selected selectable text element.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein, upon selection of one of the selectable text elements, the corresponding electronic file is displayed side by side with a page of the first electronic book having the selected selectable text element.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the activating step comprises operating a pointing device and a cursor to highlight one of the selectable text element and operating a select button to select one of the selectable text element.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the corresponding electronic file is an audio presentation.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the corresponding electronic file is a video presentation.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the corresponding electronic file is a location where products can be ordered and purchased.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the corresponding electronic file is a location where books can be ordered and purchased.

55. (Original) The method of claim 54, wherein the books are electronic books.

56-79. (Canceled)

80. (Previously Presented) A method for providing an electronic book, comprising:

displaying a portion of the electronic book including a plurality of selection options;

in response to a selection of one of the selection options from a user, displaying a menu system including one or more links,
the menu system including:

a help menu, wherein the help menu provides instructions for using the menu system; and

a show links menu, wherein when selected, the show links menu displays a link type menu that includes audio clip links, graphics file links, definition links, language translation links, book order links, book review links, related discussion group links, pronunciation links, data base links, other book links, and book selection links, wherein the one or more links provide access to additional content; and

in response to a selection of a link from the links menu from the user, retrieving additional content associated with the selected link and providing the additional content to the user.

81. (Previously Presented)The method of claim 80, further comprising:
providing additional content that is internal to the electronic book.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, further comprising:
providing additional content that is external to the electronic book.

83. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the additional content is audio content.

84. (Previously Presented)The method of claim 80, wherein the additional content is audio-video content.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 80, wherein the additional content is text content.

86. (Previously Presented) A method for creating links, comprising:

- receiving a selection of content associated with an electronic book from a user, wherein the content is a piece of the actual text of the electronic book;
- receiving a selection of additional content from the user;
- in response to a request from the user, creating a link between the selected content associated with the electronic book and the selected additional content;
- repeating the creating a link step, thereby creating multiple electronic links; and
- providing a links menu, wherein the links menu is capable of displaying all of the available corresponding electronic links associated with the selected content of the electronic book,

wherein the links menu displays all of the corresponding electronic link types for a displayed page in the electronic book, and, when a desired electronic link type is selected from the links menu, only the available corresponding electronic links of the selected type are displayed on the page.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86, further comprising: creating a links menu; inserting the created link in the links menu.

Art Unit: 2176

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86, wherein the created link provides access from the selected content associated with the electronic book to the selected additional content.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86, wherein the created link provides access from the selected additional content to the selected content associated with the electronic book.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86, wherein the created link is a two-way link.

91-101. (Canceled)

102. (Previously Presented) The electronic book system of claim 1, wherein the components in the links menu are electronically stored at a location where electronic books are orderable and purchasable.

103-112. (Canceled)

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 02/04/2008 have been fully considered and they are persuasive.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 20-25, 30-44, 48-55, and 80-90, and 102 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Interpreting the claims in light of the specification, Examiner finds the claimed invention is patentably distinct from the prior art of record, Eberhard et al. US006331867B1 filed 08/28/1998, which set forth in the previous rejection mailed on 10/03/2007, as well as DeRose et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,557,722, and Reed et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,241,671, which set forth in the previous rejection mailed on 10/03/200703/05/2007.

Under the broadest reasonable interpretation of the claimed limitation consistence with the Applicant's Specification, the prior art of record fail to teach all of the Applicant's claimed limitation. In particularly, the claimed invention advantageously provides a finer level of detail that enables the user linking electronic files to electronic books, that includes a menu system, the menu system including: a help menu, wherein the help menu provides instructions for using the menu system; and a show links menu, wherein when selected, the show links menu displays a link type menu that includes audio clip links, graphics file links, definition links, language translation links, book order links, book review links, related discussion group links, pronunciation links, data base

links, other book links, and book selection links, and, when a desired electronic link type is selected from the links menu, only the available corresponding electronic links of the selected link type are displayed- See claims 1, 30, 80, and 86.

The Examiner asserts that the claims overcome the prior art of record when the limitations are read in combination with the respective claimed limitations in their entirety.

The dependent claims, further limiting the independent claims, are also allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quoc A. Tran whose telephone number is 571-272-8664. The examiner can normally be reached on 9AM - 5PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached on 571-272-4137. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2176

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Quoc A. Tran/

Patent Examiner

Art Unit 2176

02/15/2008

/Doug Hutton/

Doug Hutton

Supervisory Primary Examiner

Technology Center 2100